

DOK Leipzig to honour Dominique Cabrera, Isabel Herguera and Thomas Heise

Press Release
3 September 2024

Homages to Cabrera and Herguera | Film programme and DEFA Matinee in memory of Heise



f.l.t.r. Dominique Cabrera, Isabel Herguera, Thomas Heise | ©Victor Sicard, ©GM Films/ Inge Zimmermann

The 67th edition of DOK Leipzig will pay homage to the two esteemed women filmmakers, French director Dominique Cabrera and Spanish animation artist Isabel Herguera. The festival will also honour the memory of late German director and writer Thomas Heise with a lineup of films, an evening event, and this year's DEFA Matinee.

Dominique Cabrera's formidable career has spanned 40 years as has devoted herself to assorted forms of expression, alternating between fiction and documentary, short and long form films. Her films have been screened at numerous international film festivals and have garnered awards at Cannes, the Berlinale, Toronto, Locarno, among others.

Cabrera's commitment to social issues is central to her documentary work. Her early documentaries have often focused on voices of marginalised people, such as those in France's banlieues and nearby towns. Her sensitivity toward those she portrays is palpable, for example, in "Chronicle of an Ordinary Suburb" (1992).

Cabrera's oeuvre consists entirely of personal films, some of which explore with various degrees of intensity her daily experiences and her Algerian-French background as a 'pied-noir'. It is not uncommon for her films to tackle such complex issues as mental and physical illness, and mortality. Her first feature-length documentary, the video diary "Tomorrow and Again Tomorrow" (1997), deals with her own hopes and fears, yet it remains in all aspects universally relevant.

"Her films are consistently about recognising oneself in the other and the other in oneself," notes festival director Christoph Terhechte.

Rounding out Cabrera's retrospective are her feature film "The Milk of Human Kindness" (2001), which deals with ruptures within families, and

67th International Leipzig
Festival for Documentary and
Animated Film
28 October to 3 November

Publicists
Nina Kühne
Melanie Rohde
Sevara Pan
Tel. +49 (0)341 30864 1070
presse@dok-leipzig.de

Leipziger Dok- Filmwochen GmbH
Katharinenstraße 17
04109 Leipzig

Chairwoman of
the Supervisory Board
Dr. Skadi Jennicke

Managing and Artistic Director
Christoph Terhechte

Place of Performance
Leipzig

Handelsregister
Commercial Register, HRB 35 89

VAT Tax ID
DE141498242

her documentary “Hi Mister Comolli” (2023). In the latter, Cabrera bids farewell to her terminally ill friend Jean-Louis Comolli, a former editor of Cahiers du cinéma, who, akin to her, had to leave Algeria after the country gained independence. The two converse about life, death, love, and their shared fondness of cinema.

Press Release
3 September 2024

page 2 of 3

Cabrera’s masterclass on 31 October will be preceded by a screening of Chris Marker’s seminal experimental film “La Jetée” (1962). This film inspired Cabrera’s latest work “La Jetée: The Fifth Shot” (2024), which will celebrate its world premiere in this year’s International Competition Documentary Film at DOK Leipzig.

Isabel Herguera’s oeuvre incorporates such works as “Los Muertitos” (1994), “Ámár” (2010), and “Black Box” (2016), which offer a poignant take on socio-politically urgent themes. In 2023, Herguera presented her first feature-length animated film, “Sultana’s Dream”, as an out of competition title in DOK Leipzig’s section for international animated films. Curator Franka Sachse of the festival’s selection team notes how Herguera’s personal creative style makes her more recent films “visually unique”, detailing that “translucent colour fields [are] set off against porous ink strokes in rich black, unconventional perspectives and an expressive animation”. The composition and mood of Herguera’s films also reflect her background in the fine arts. She studied in Düsseldorf under Fluxus pioneer Nam June Paik, specialising in animation only later. DOK Leipzig’s homage to Herguera charts the trajectory of her work, with the first part of the homage dedicated to her short films, from her student days to her work as a co-creator, and the second—to her films that showcase her role as an inspirer and mentor. A professor of animation at the Academy of Media Arts Cologne, Herguera mentors students around the world, alongside collaborating with artists in the development of ideas and providing support to film projects as a producer.

On the festival Friday, 1 November, Herguera will hold a masterclass, discussing an interplay between individual and dialogue-based creativity, using selected documentary and making of clips.

With **“Thomas Heise (1955–2024): Odds and Ends”**, DOK Leipzig will pay tribute to the work of the celebrated German film director and author. The programme will include three feature-length documentaries, which all centre on fractured lives and which themselves represent fragments of Heise’s work that defies any categorisation.

In “The Iron Age” (1991), Heise reflects on his student project lensing four young people from Eisenhüttenstadt who rebelled against the ideology of the GDR. “Barluschke” (1997), one of Heise’s lesser-known films, portrays an enigmatic man who adopted a new identity for different employers and phases of his life: he was an agent for the Stasi, then the BND and the CIA; he was a trafficker of East German military hardware after the fall of the Berlin Wall; and he was also a father, a failing husband, and a homosexual. In his monumental final film, “Heimat Is a Space in Time” (2019), Heise turns to a narrative that encompasses not only his family’s history but also that of an entire country.

“We’re interested in watching these three works with the audience in Leipzig, a large part of which undoubtedly had experiences similar to those of Thomas Heise and his protagonists,” says Jan Künemund, a member of the selection committee for the German Competition, who worked alongside festival director Terhechte in putting together the section.

“Heise’s films reveal an important quality of documentary filmmaking that can also be relevant in view of the current political state of affairs: seeing and examining circumstances without immediately trying to interpret or categorise them.”

Press Release
3 September 2024

page 3 of 3

On 1 November, DOK Leipzig will also host an evening in honour of Heise at the CineStar. Excerpts from the previously unreleased footage, which Heise was last working on, will also be screened. The event will be moderated by film publicist Ralph Eue, a former curator DOK Leipzig, and filmmaker and author Cornelia Klauß, who has helmed the Film and Media Arts section at Berlin’s Akademie der Künste since 2017.

The **DEFA Matinee** on 2 November will present Heise’s documentary “Volkspolizei” (1985) and his DEFA production “Imbiß Spezial” (1990). His long-time companion Peter Badel will be in attendance.

On 18 and 19 November, festival partner 3sat will broadcast Heise’s films “Stau, jetzt geht’s los” (1992) and “Heimat Is a Space in Time” (2019) as part of its regular programming.

The complete schedule for DOK Leipzig, including all dates, will be available on 10 October. Tickets will go on sale at the same time.

The DEFA Matinee was conceived in collaboration with the DEFA Foundation. The Thomas Heise programme is made possible with support from 3sat and German Films.

Wir danken für die Unterstützung

Thank you for your support

Gefördert durch



Gold



Silber



Bronze



Weitere DOK Fördernde und Freund*innen

More DOK Supporters and Friends

- Barbara Hobbie und Richard Mancke
- culturtraeger GmbH
- Computer Leipzig
- DEFA-Stiftung
- Deutsches Institut für Animationsfilm e.V.
- D-Facto Motion

- Doc Alliance
- Doris Apell-Kölmel und Michael Kölmel
- Europäische Stiftung der Rahn Dittrich Group für Bildung und Kultur
- Leipziger Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Filmkunst e.V.
- Gangart Werbung GmbH

- IIs Medientechnik GmbH
- Petersbogen Leipzig
- Staatliche Porzellanmanufaktur Meißen
- Stiftung Friedliche Revolution
- ver.di Filmunion

Förderhinweise Freistaat Sachsen: Gefördert durch das Sächsische Staatsministerium für Wissenschaft Kultur und Tourismus. Diese Einrichtung wird mitfinanziert durch Steuermittel auf der Grundlage des vom Sächsischen Landtag beschlossenen Haushalts. Kreatives Europa: Von der Europäischen Union finanziert. Die geäußerten Ansichten und Meinungen entsprechen jedoch ausschließlich denen des Autors

bzw. der Autoren und spiegeln nicht zwingend die der Europäischen Union oder der Europäischen Exekutivagentur für Bildung und Kultur (EACEA) wider. Weder die Europäische Union noch die EACEA können dafür verantwortlich gemacht werden. Bundesstiftung Aufarbeitung: Gefördert mit Mitteln der Bundesstiftung zur Aufarbeitung der SED-Diktatur.

Homage: Dominique Cabrera



Chronicle of an Ordinary Suburb

Documentary Film

Dominique Cabrera
France 1992 | 56 min, Colour
No Premiere

Eine Erzählung über den Abriss von Wohntürmen in einem Pariser Vorort, über die schönen Erinnerungen der früheren Bewohner*innen und über den unaufhaltsamen Verfall einer Utopie mit Fehlern. – *A story about the demolition of tower blocks in a Parisian suburb, about the fond memories of former residents and the inexorable decline of a flawed utopia.*

Language French
Subtitles English



Hi Mister Comolli

Documentary Film

Dominique Cabrera, Isabelle Le Corff
France 2023 | 85 min, Colour
No Premiere

Cabrera nimmt Abschied von ihrem schwerkranken Freund, dem ehemaligen Chefredakteur der "Cahiers du cinéma". Man spricht über Leben, Tod und Liebe, vor allem aber über die Liebe zum Kino. – *Cabrera says goodbye to her seriously ill friend, the former editor-in-chief of "Cahiers du cinéma." They talk about life, death and love, but above all about the love of cinema.*

Language French
Subtitles English



The Milk of Human Kindness

Fictional Film

Dominique Cabrera
France, Belgium 2001 | 94 min, Colour
No Premiere

Eine Frau flieht nach der Geburt ihres Kindes aus Angst vor der Mutterschaft aus ihrer Wohnung und findet Unterschlupf bei einer Nachbarin. Ein Film über Brüche in scheinbar heilen Familien. – *After the birth of her child, a woman flees her flat out of fear of motherhood and finds refuge with a neighbour. A film about ruptures in seemingly intact families.*

Language French
Subtitles English



Tomorrow and Again Tomorrow

Documentary Film

Dominique Cabrera
France 1997 | 79 min, Colour
No Premiere

Ein radikal persönliches Videotagebuch, das von Cabreras Ängsten und Freuden handelt, aber stets allgemeingültig bleibt: Autobiografie nicht als Ich-, sondern als Gesellschaftsbezogenheit. – *A radically personal video diary that deals with Cabrera's fears and joys but always remains universally valid: autobiography, not self-centred but society-centred.*

Language French
Subtitles English

Homage: Isabel Herguera



Ámár

Animated Film

Isabel Herguera
Spain 2010 | 8 min, Colour
No Premiere

Mit ihrem Skizzenbuch im Gepäck reist eine Spanierin nach Indien, um ihren psychisch kranken Freund zu besuchen. Intensive Bilder und Farben visualisieren ihre vermutlich letzte Begegnung. – *Having packed her sketch book, a Spanish woman travels to India to visit her mentally ill friend. Intense images and colours visualize their presumably last meeting.*

Language Spanish
Subtitles English



The Balloon

Animated Film

Satinder Singh
USA, Spain 2004 | 9 min, Colour
No Premiere

Ein Mädchen, eine Leidenschaft: alles, was hoch fliegt. Die Schaukel, der Luftballon. Doch dann gerät sie in die Fänge eines Vogelhändlers. Der einzige Weg nach draußen führt über das Fenster. – *A girl, a passion: everything that flies high. The swing, the balloon. But then she falls into the clutches of a bird dealer. The only way out is through the window.*

Language without dialogue
Subtitles None



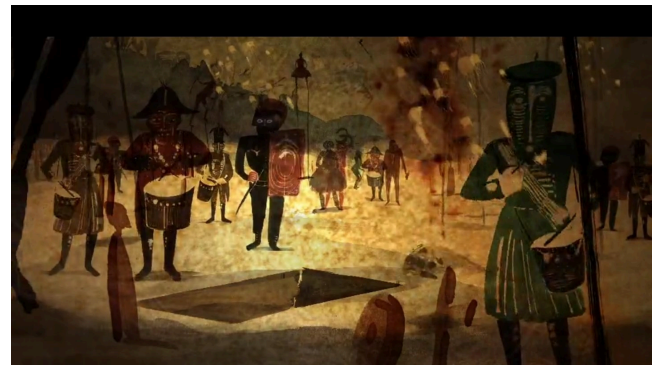
Berbaoc

Animated Film

Irati Fernández, José Belmonte, Izibene Oñederra Aramendi,
Mercedes Sánchez-Agustino, Gustavo Díez
Spain 2007 | 6 min, Colour
No Premiere

Seltsame Figuren begegnen uns in den strophenartigen Segmenten dieses animierten Experiments. Verrauschte Textbruchstücke aus einem Interview verheddern sich in der Musik von Xabier Erkizia. – *We encounter strange figures in the verse-like segments of this animated experiment. Text fragments from an interview distorted by static noise get tangled up in Xabier Erkizia's music.*

Language without dialogue
Subtitles None



Black Box

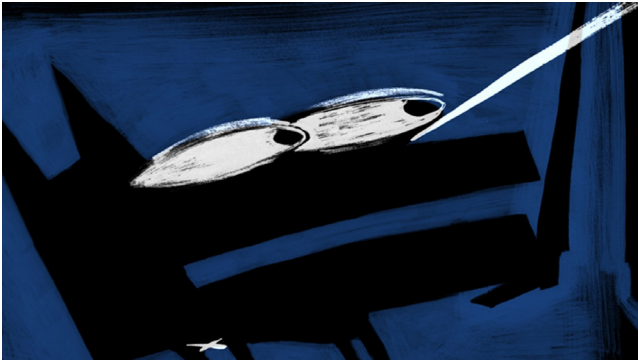
Animated Film

Isabel Herguera, Izibene Oñederra Aramendi
Spain 2016 | 7 min, Colour
No Premiere

Ein Hund nimmt uns mit in das Innere eines Leuchtturms. Dort bäumt sich Seefahrts- und Eroberungsgeschichte auf: in halluzinierten Bilderrätseln voller Grausamkeit. – *A dog takes us into the interior of a lighthouse, where the history of seafaring and conquests rears its head: in hallucinated visual riddles full of cruelty.*

Language without dialogue
Subtitles

Homage: Isabel Herguera



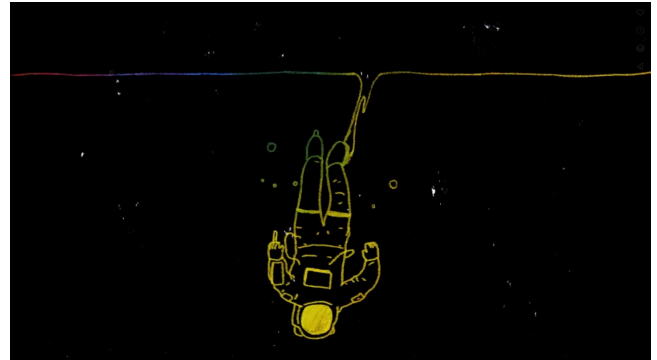
Blindman's Bluff

Animated Film

Isabel Herguera
Spain 2005 | 7 min, Colour
No Premiere

Der Assistenzhund einer blinden Person reißt sich los und verschwindet im Getümmel einer summanden Großstadt. Eine Reise beginnt, bei der die Sinne vor neuen Herausforderungen stehen.
– *A blind person's assistance dog breaks loose and disappears in the crowds of a buzzing city. Thus begins a journey where the senses face new challenges.*

Language without dialogue
Subtitles



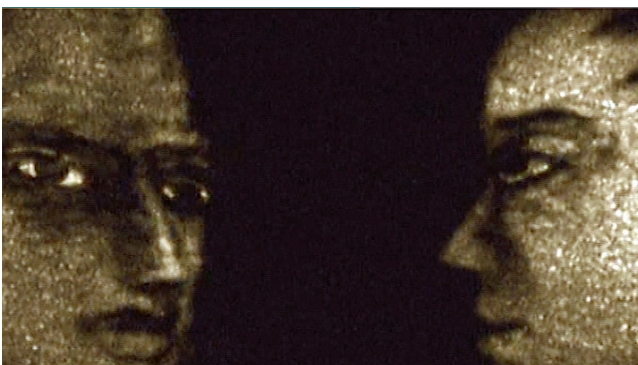
Diaries of Confinement – Part One

Animated Film

Katrin Hauser, Lenia Friedrich, Arjun Patel, Milan Haupt, Dexin Yin, Quingqi Ren, Tianyi Zhang, Diego Herguera, Raquel Galvez Soto, Toni Planas Portas, Cesar Garcia Villafaina, Ines Gonzales, Candela Carroceda, Agata Tracevič, Justinas Erminas, Eva Rodz, Žilvinas Baranauskas, Margarita Valionytė
Germany, Switzerland, China, India, Mexico, Colombia 2020 | 16 min,
Colour
No Premiere

Die Studierenden von sieben internationalen Hochschulen tauschen sich online über ihre erzwungene Isolation im Lockdown aus – und kommen sich über dieses gemeinsame Filmprojekt nah. – *Students of seven international universities discuss their forced isolation during lockdown online – and grow closer through this joint film project.*

Language English, Hindi, Chinese, Italian, Spanish, Albanian, Portuguese (Portugal)
Subtitles English



He Who Cheats Doesn't Win

Animated Film

Partha Pratim Das, Rajiv Eipe, Kapil Pandit, Kaustub Ray, Prashant Sartape, Nidhi Sundaram, Lucky Vakharia, Monisha Kaul
Spain 2005 | 5 min, Colour
No Premiere

Ein Musikvideo, umgesetzt als Sandanimation: Ein zuckender Wirbel aus Licht durchbricht die flirrende Dunkelheit. Zwei Hände fangen ihn ein und wandeln sich in eine Figur, deren Weg wir verfolgen. – *A music video, realised as a sand animation: a twitching vortex of light breaks through the shimmering darkness. Two hands catch it and turn into a figure whose path we follow.*

Language Spanish
Subtitles English



The Illustrated Woman

Animated Film

Isabel Herguera
Spain 2023 | 9 min, Colour
No Premiere

Der animierte Kurzfilm dokumentiert einen Workshop mit Henna-Künstlerinnen. Während ihrer Arbeit erzählen sie Isabel Herguera von ihren Träumen: vom Fliegen oder von einem Frauenparlament. – *This animated short film documents a workshop with female henna artists. While they work, they tell Isabel Herguera about their dreams: of flying or of a women's parliament.*

Language Spanish, Bengali
Subtitles English

Homage: Isabel Herguera



Letters from the Jungle

Animated Film

Collective Animation Project

**Germany, Colombia, China, India, Mexico 2018 | 23 min, Colour
No Premiere**

Die Briefe ehemaliger FARC-Guerilleros aus Kolumbien bilden die Grundlage dieser persönlichen Erinnerungen. – Ein berührender, durch seine visuelle Experimentierfreude beeindruckender Film. – *The letters of former FARC guerrilleros from Colombia supply the basis of these personal memories. – A touching film with an impressive joy of visual experimentation.*

Language Chinese, English, Spanish, Hindi
Subtitles English



Los Muertitos

Animated Film

Isabel Herguera

**Spain, USA 1994 | 11 min, Colour & B&W
No Premiere**

Die Geister der Toten eines mexikanischen Friedhofs erheben sich und machen sich auf, die Mauer in die USA zu überqueren. Die Spukgeschichte von 1994 verursacht Gänsehaut durch ihre Aktualität. – *The spirits of the dead from a Mexican cemetery rise and set out to cross the wall to the USA. The topicality of this ghost story from 1994 gives you goose-bumps.*

Language Spanish, English
Subtitles English



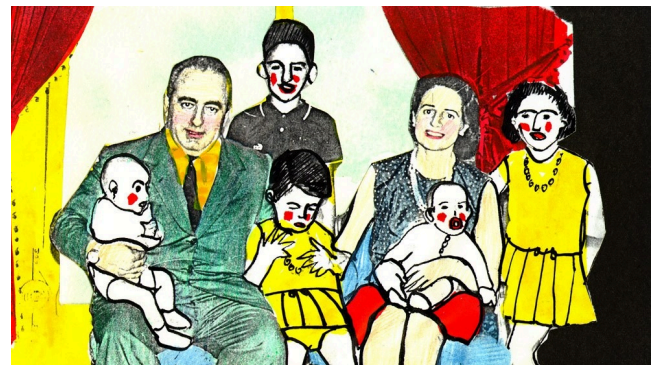
Sailor's Grave

Animated Film

**Vuk Jevremović, Juan Camilo González, Cecilia Traslaviña, Isabel Herguera, José Belmonte, Carlos Santa, Richard Reeves, Kemei Cheng, Liming Wang, Koldo Almandoz
Spain, Colombia, China, Oman, USA, Singapore 2013 | 6 min, Colour
No Premiere**

Ein Schiffsunglück, die Nebelglocken eines Leuchtturms, der Wechsel der Gezeiten. Ein Film als Ergebnis eines interozeanischen Workshops: Aus kollektivem Schöpfungsakt entsteht intuitive Erzählung. – *A shipwreck, the fog bells of a lighthouse, the changing tides. A film as the result of an inter-oceanic workshop: an intuitive narrative, generated by a collective act of creation.*

Language English
Subtitles None



Spain Loves You

Animated Film

Isabel Herguera

**Spain 1987 | 6 min, Colour
No Premiere**

Ein autobiografischer Einblick in die Familiengeschichte Isabel Hergueras zeigt uns einen Ausschnitt spanischer Geschichte aus einem sehr persönlichen Blickwinkel. – *This autobiographical insight into Isabel Herguera's family history shows us a slice of Spanish history from a very personal point of view.*

Language without dialogue
Subtitles None

Homage: Isabel Herguera



Sultana's Dream

Animated Film

Isabel Herguera
Spain, Germany 2023 | 86 min, Colour
No Premiere

Inspired by a feminist science-fiction story, begibt sich die Spanierin Inés auf eine Entdeckungsreise durch Indien. Sie sucht Ladyland, das utopische Land der Frauen. – *Inspired by a feminist science fiction story, the Spaniard Inés embarks on a journey of discovery through India. She is looking for Ladyland, the utopian land of women.*

Language Hindi, Bengali, Spanish, Basque, English, Italian
Subtitles English



Sultana's Mehendi

Animated Film

Isabel Herguera
India 2013 | 3 min, Colour
No Premiere

Sadhya wünscht sich Lehrerin zu werden und möchte fleißig dafür lernen. Doch das Geld, das ihre Eltern verdienen und von dem sie die siebenköpfige Familie ernähren, ist dafür zu knapp. – *Sadhya wants to become a teacher and is willing to study hard for this. But the money that her parents earn to feed their family of seven is too tight.*

Language Hindi
Subtitles English



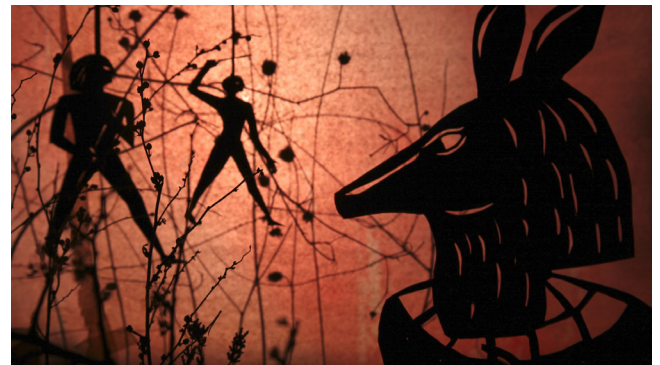
Under the Pillow

Animated Film

Isabel Herguera
Spain 2012 | 9 min, Colour & B&W
No Premiere

Animierte Kinderzeichnungen erzählen vom Alltag junger HIV-Patient*innen in Indien. Der von den Kindern selbst kommentierte Film ist eine Bildgeschichte voller Lebendigkeit und Energie. – *Animated children's drawings depict the daily life of young HIV patients in India. The film, narrated by the children themselves, is a visual story filled with vitality and energy.*

Language Spanish, English
Subtitles English



Winter Love

Animated Film

Isabel Herguera
Italy, Spain 2015 | 8 min, Colour
No Premiere

Inmitten einer eisigen Landschaft kommt eine Gruppe fantastischer Charaktere zusammen und erinnert sich an einen gemeinsamen Freund. Ihre Begegnung durchwärmt die frostige Szenerie. – *A group of fantastic characters meet in the middle of an icy landscape to remember a mutual friend. Their meeting warms the chilly scenery.*

Language French, Spanish
Subtitles English

Thomas Heise (1955–2024). Nicht aufgehen | Thomas Heise (1955– 2024). Odds and Ends



Barluschke

Documentary Film

Thomas Heise
Germany 1997 | 90 min, Colour
No Premiere

Der Spion, der aus Mittenwalde kam: Berthold Barluschke, MfS- und BND-Mitarbeiter, Waffenhändler, Familienvater und professioneller Vorspieler in einem Psychogramm über Identität und Moral. – *The spy who came in from Mittenwalde: Berthold Barluschke, employed by both the East and West German secret service, arms dealer, family man and professional impostor in a psychogram about identity and morals.*

Language German
Subtitles



Eisenzeit

Documentary Film

Thomas Heise
Germany 1991 | 90 min, Colour
No Premiere

1981 "aus Gründen der Staatsdisziplin" abgebrochen, zehn Jahre später fortgeführt: Ein Film über Jugendliche in Eisenhüttenstadt – ihre Fluchten aus der Realität und der Wunsch, selbst zu denken. – *Cancelled in 1981 "for reasons of state discipline", continued ten years later: a film about young people in Eisenhüttenstadt – their escapes from reality and the wish to think for themselves.*

Language German
Subtitles



Heimat ist ein Raum aus Zeit

Documentary Film

Thomas Heise
Germany, Austria 2019 | 218 min, Colour
No Premiere

Heises letzter Film befasst sich mit dem Archiv seiner Familie und holt Widersprüche von über 100 Jahren deutscher Geschichte ins Sichtfeld. Eine monumentale Anordnung von Bruchstücken. – *Heise's last film deals with his family's archive and brings contradictions from more than 100 years of German history into focus. A monumental arrangement of fragments.*

Language German, Korean
Subtitles English

DEFA Matinee



Imbiß Spezial

Documentary Film

Thomas Heise
GDR 1990 | 27 min, B&W
No Premiere

—

Language German
Subtitles



Volkspolizei / 1985

Documentary Film

Thomas Heise
GDR 1985 | 61 min, B&W
No Premiere

—

Language German
Subtitles None